

### Letter to Scotland (cont.)

Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin Roosevelt. Many historians believe that Mittie Bulloch was the person that Margaret Mitchell based her character on for Scarlet O'Hara in "Gone With The Wind."

Thursday Evening Jean Maggs, her mother, Barb McKenzie and her sister, Ann Stansbarger, hosted a small Garden Party in honor of Lady Cromartie and sons that was brought indoors because of the Scottish mist. The comments afterwards were "absolutely perfect." Lady Cromartie was presented a shawl woven by Margie of North Carolina (originally from Glasgow, Scotland) and the boys were presented walking sticks with bronze engraving of the event.

Friday morning the Cromarties joined the Clan Mackenzie at the tent at Stone Mountain while we set up our displays and concluded with a Southern barbeque lunch. I believe that the Cromarties had a family time enjoying the park in the afternoon with a trip to the top of Stone Mountain.

Friday evening was the traditional Patron and Sponsor's Receptions. Again there was time with all Mackenzies. The Canadians were especially pleased with the food and their special time with Lady Cromartie.

Saturday was the Stone Mountain Games and time for young Colin to "shine." Lady Cromartie and the boys were piped on the field and up to the viewing stand. This stand was adjacent to the Clan Mackenzie tent which was full inside and out with United States and Canadian Mackenzies. When the announcer introduced young Colin, Viscount Tarbat, to the audience of about 30,000, everyone stopped at the Mackenzie tent and when he began to speak – no one moved and we collectively held our breath. He was articulate, charming, and a real natural with the public. At some point Lady Cromartie began to cry. I was crying along with her and turned around to the members back in the tent. ....all eyes were on Colin and EVERY mother and grandmother had tears streaming down their faces – and a few of the men too. ....it was as if we as a family were watching our little one try his wings and were collectively watching him fly. It was a surreal experience as if I was watching everything in slow motion and not a sound from those around me. ....then all of a sudden he sat down and there was a great roar from the Mackenzie tent and old men began walking around congratulating themselves with words such as "he came here a boy and today he became a man."

Margie, the Stone Mountain weaver, presented Lady Cromartie a Georgia Tartan blanket and scarves for the family.

If there was one word to describe our time at the tent on Saturday and Sunday that word would be "laughter." In between their duties the family socialized with those in the tent and visited other clan tents as well as enjoyed the Scottish Country dancing and the music.

Saturday evening was a whirlwind experience with Blair's reception at 6:30 allowing again time with just the US and Canadian Mackenzies and lots of photos. This was followed by an Edinburgh dinner at the host hotel and a Scottish Music Evening.

Sunday morning was met by a most unusual cold front with a freezing rain. The Canadians left early and many who came for the worship service left shortly thereafter because of the weather and dangerous Atlanta roads. The Parade of Tartans with Clan Mackenzie at the head and Colin, Viscount Tarbat, reviewing the "troops" was very moving. He was called on unexpectedly to speak once again....and without hesitation spoke with great authority and ease – making us very proud.

May I add at this point, Alasdair was a real trouper all week long. He was warm and friendly in his own unique way. And in the background we grandmothers were busy steering all of the young ladies away as they were very drawn to his quiet genteel charm.

There was a special moment during the opening ceremony on Saturday for Colin that I would like to share with you. While the family was being piped on to the viewing stand, a young man came up to the tent, passed several people and stopped in front of me at the side of the tent. He said that he worked at the World of Coke and that he had met two young men from Scotland on Thursday. And followed by saying, "you know how sometimes you meet someone and you know they are special. Well I was strangely drawn to these young men and I told my wife that I could not explain it to her, but that we MUST go out to those games on Saturday." I said, "do you know who they are?" He replied, "No I do not." I responded that, "their father is the chief of all Mackenzies worldwide and the oldest boy is Colin, Viscount Tarbat, future heir and if you will look they are sitting on the viewing stand. They are the honored guest and if you wait they will return to the Mackenzie tent afterwards." He turned to his wife and was speechless.....then I lost him in the crowd.

Colin, without planning, spoke about our hospitality and of the man from the World of Coke and how he gave them a hat. Lady Cromartie related their surprise when they stepped down from the stand and there standing in front of them was the very man that Colin has just spoke about in his speech and what a coincidence.

Well, we have a saying for this in the South. We call such an occasion a "When God Winks Moment".....it is a coincident that is so special you know it has to be divine. It was as if God was saying, "Colin, I'm watching, I'm happy, and by the way, well done – ;-)."

Please tell Cabarfeidh, "Thank you, for sharing your family with us for a little while – you have done a great job raising those young men. And as we say in the South, "The one thing that Mackenzie men do well, is choosing a good wife."

Kindest regards,

Rita McKenzie Oster  
Commissioner Clan Mackenzie Society